

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 00096 101127Z

15

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCS-03

SCA-01 DHA-02 /076 W

----- 047964

O 101100Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 923

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT CVMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0096

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, US, SU, ET

SUBJECT: RELEASE KAGNEW 2

REF: STATE 005416

1. STRESSING IT WAS PRELIMINARY AND IMMEDIATE
REACTION, I CONVEYED TO FONMIN AHMED THIS MORNING DEPARTMENT'S
DEEP APPRECIATION FOR SUDANESE HELP AND HOPE THAT GOS
EFFORTS WOULD BE EQUALLY SUCCESSFUL IN RELEASE REMAINING THREE
HOSTAGES. FONMIM WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED AND SAID HE WOULD
IMMEDIATELY PASS ON THIS PRELIMINARY WORD TO VP BAGHIR (WHO
IS NOW ACTING PRESIDENT AS NIMEIRI LEFTFOR LONDON ABOUT 0900).
I TOLD AHMED THAT AS RESULT INFO TO AMERICAN PRESS FROM
FAMILIES OF TWO MEN, DEPT HAD MADE BRIEF STATEMENT JAN. 9.
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READ HIM ESSENCE OF TEXT, NOTING WE SEEKING KEEP PUBLICITY

TO MINIMUM. AHMED EXPRESSED AGREEMENT BUT THEN RAISED IN LOW KEY A STATEMENT HE HAD HEARD OVER BBC (EVIDENTLY DERIVED FROM SPOKESMAN'S EXCHANGES WITH NEWSMEN--STATE 005951) TO EFFECT THAT WE HAD MADE CLEAR NO RANSOM WAS PAID NOR DID WE MAKE CONCESSIONS OF ANY KIND TO KIDNAPPERS. HE SAID HE REALIZED SPECIAL PROBLEMS WE HAD IN DEALING WITH AMERICAN PRESS BUT FELT THAT THIS REMARK WOULD NOT MAKE SUDANESE TASK ANY EASIER IN ASSURING RELEASE REMAINING MEN. I EXPLAINED CIRCUMSTANCES DEPARTMENT'S NOON BRIEFINGS AND SAID THAT SPOKESMAN WAS IN FACT SIMPLY REITERATING IN DIFFERENT WORDS STANDARD USG POLICY IN CASES OF THIS KIND. AHMED DID NOT PURSUE POINT.

2. COMMENT: VIEW OBVIOUS SUDANESE SENSITIVITY THIS MATTER AND CONTINUING IMPORTANCE OF THEIR CONTACTS WITH ERITREANS FOR RELEASE REMAINING HOSTAGES RECOMMEND THAT DEPT IN FUTURE CONFINE PUBLIC STATEMENTS AS TO PUTATIVE CONCESSIONS SIMPLY TO REAFFIRMING RELEASE WAS IN ACCORD OUR GENERAL POLICY ON SUCH MATTERS. FULLY RECOGNIZE AMERICAN JOURNALISTS MAY PRESS US ON THIS POINT BUT, TO EXTENT WE CAN AVOID SPECIFIC STATEMENTS WHICH ELF LIKELY FIND SERIOUSLY EMBARRASSING, WE WILL IMPROVE CHANCES FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE.
BREWER

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NNN

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